

**House Resolution**

**No. 36**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Torres**

August 18, 2010

House Resolution No. 36—Relative to Suicide Prevention Week.

1 WHEREAS, Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the  
2 United States; and  
3 WHEREAS, Suicide is the third leading cause of death among  
4 individuals who are 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age in the United  
5 States; and  
6 WHEREAS, In the United States, one person completes suicide  
7 every 15.2 minutes; and  
8 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 4.6 million people in the United  
9 States, known as survivors of suicide, have lost a loved one to  
10 suicide; and  
11 WHEREAS, Fifty and two-tenths percent of people who die by  
12 suicide use a firearm; and  
13 WHEREAS, Guns stored in the house are used for suicide 40  
14 times more often than for self-protection; and  
15 WHEREAS, An increase in the overall suicide rate in the United  
16 States was seen in 2007, representing a change in the recent pattern  
17 of stability or slight declines; and  
18 WHEREAS, The suicide rate for individuals who are 15 to 24,  
19 inclusive, years of age has more than doubled since the mid-1950s;  
20 and  
21 WHEREAS, Suicide rates remain highest for adults 75 years of  
22 age or older; and  
23 WHEREAS, In 2007, suicide was the third leading cause of  
24 death for Hispanic Americans 15 to 24, inclusive, years of age,

1 the third leading cause of death for Hispanic Americans 25 to 34,  
2 inclusive, years of age, and the 13th leading cause of death for  
3 Hispanic Americans of all ages; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2007, 18 percent of Hispanic adolescents  
5 reported seriously considering attempting suicide in the last 12  
6 months, which is a proportion higher than reported by their  
7 non-Hispanic classmates; and

8 WHEREAS, Although rates of completed suicide among  
9 Hispanic youth are lower than those for non-Hispanic youth,  
10 schooled Hispanic youth self-report higher rates of feeling sad  
11 or hopeless, of thinking about suicide, and of attempting suicide;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The stigma associated with mental illness and  
14 suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging  
15 persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further  
16 traumatizes survivors of suicide; and

17 WHEREAS, Statewide suicide prevention efforts should be  
18 developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and

19 WHEREAS, Organizations such as the American Association  
20 of Suicidology, that are dedicated to reducing the frequency of  
21 suicide attempts and death and the pain of survivors of suicide  
22 through educational programs, research programs, intervention  
23 services, and bereavement services, urge the following:

24 (a) Recognition of suicide as a national and state public health  
25 problem and the declaration of suicide prevention as a statewide  
26 priority.

27 (b) Acknowledgement that no single suicide prevention program  
28 or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.

29 (c) Encouragement of initiatives based on the goals contained  
30 in the National Strategy Prevention, which include all of the  
31 following:

32 (1) Promotion of awareness of suicide as a public health problem  
33 that is preventable.

34 (2) Development of broadbased support for suicide prevention.

35 (3) Development and implementation of strategies to reduce  
36 the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health,  
37 substance abuse, and suicide prevention services.

38 (4) Development and implementation of community-based  
39 suicide prevention programs.

1 (5) Development and implementation of community-based  
2 suicide bereavement support services.

3 (6) Promotion of efforts to reduce access to lethal means and  
4 methods of self-harm.

5 (7) Implementation of training for the recognition of at-risk  
6 behavior and for the delivery of effective treatment.

7 (8) Development and promotion of effective clinical and  
8 professional practices.

9 (9) An increase in access to, and community linkages with,  
10 mental health and substance abuse services.

11 (10) Improvement in reporting and portrayals of suicidal  
12 behavior, mental illness, and substance abuse in the entertainment  
13 and news media.

14 (11) Promotion and support of research on suicide and suicide  
15 prevention.

16 (12) Improvement and expansion of surveillance systems for  
17 suicidal behavior; and

18 WHEREAS, A great many suicides are preventable; now,  
19 therefore, be it

20 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California*, That the  
21 Members of the Assembly hereby proclaim September 5 through  
22 September 11, 2010, as “Suicide Prevention Week”; and be it  
23 further

24 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit  
25 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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